

BUFORA NEWSFILE

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CROP circles are puzzling folk in Ryedale.

Are the marks left by alien spaceships, changing wind patterns, or are they simply the work of practical jokers?

The first ones were found at a farm near Pickering, managed by Richard and Jenny Coupe.

Mrs Coupe said: "As far as I am aware this hasn't happened before. It's quite baffling."

Mr Coupe said: "I think it is the work of practical jokers."

"The field where they are has got some tram lines running down it and people can walk down these tracks to access the crops without leaving footprints."

The second discovery was in a field near Dugby.

This one cannot be called a circle as it is more of an oval, according to Andrew Underwood who spotted it.

"It is about 20 yards long and eight yards across the middle. It is a perfect shape", said Mr Underwood.

"The corn looks like it has been scorched and is riper than the rest. I'm sure it could not be due to the soil or weather because the outline is so distinct."

"I just can't weigh it up. I've never seen anything like it before. It's as if the corn has shrunk."

"I don't think it could be a prankster because there are no tramlines leading up to it or marks around it."

NOTTINGHAM EVENING POST

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Keyworth visitor

LAST week, I believe it was Wednesday about 1.30pm, my son was driving his van, looked up and saw a big, silver round object in the sky.

He pulled up to watch it — it kept circling round and then disappeared out of sight.

He saw a UFO years ago and was sure this was one. He wondered if anyone else had seen it. He was driving near Keyworth.

M. MARKS
Bede Ling
West Bridgford

A GROUP of Birmingham friends are trying to discover the cause of mystery lights in the sky which they say appeared over the Midlands.

Nancy Edwards, aged 25, a reflexologist, of Billesley, Birmingham went for a night out with friends on Wednesday and when they were returning by car from Bromsgrove to Birmingham

By SUE SMITH

they saw strange lights in the sky.

West Mercia Police have been unable to say what caused the lights.

Nancy said: "We were driving from Bromsgrove at about 9.30pm when we saw something, a really

bright light, pass by. It seemed to be a triangular shape at first. It went away and then appeared again, like a big ball of fire.

"Every now and again it appeared and seemed dim and then grew larger and went smaller. I thought we were on a bumpy road but it was straight and the sun was on the other side of the vehicle.

"It then appeared on the le hand side with the illusion that was coming down and rising back up. It really was strange."

Sgt John Hunt, of West Merc Police at Redditch, said: "We have had no other reports of strange lights or anything unusual in the sky."

BIRMINGHAM EVENING MAIL

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Please feel free to submit any material for inclusion in BUFORA UFO Newsfile to BUFORA Newsfile, 70 High Street, Wingham, Kent CT3 1BJ. Fax 01227 720774 or e-mail mhudson@oriontrade.win-uk.net

MANSFIELD & ASHFIELD OBSERVER

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The Mansfield club with its own X-files

IF YOU are one of the thousands of people enthralled by the 'X-Files' TV programme, you will be interested to know that Mansfield has its own club devoted to strange goings on in the sky - the Mansfield UFO Club.

Unfortunately, it isn't attended by Agent Mulder and Scully but its members are like-minded enthusiasts with a keen interest in UFOs and the unknown.

Walter Blythe is the secretary of the Mansfield UFO club, and has been following mysterious UFO sightings for 50 years. He is a firm believer in the existence of UFOs and he has photographic evidence for the sceptics.

Mr Blythe said the last sighting occurred two months ago, two young men claiming to have been followed by a UFO from Nottingham to Rainworth.

HEATHER HINCHLEY investigates

A Police car was said to have picked it up at Clipstone and then followed it to Warsop.

Police

It was claimed to have been seen by another Police patrol car in Warsop who say they observed the UFO's journey to Retford. This Unidentified Flying Object was said to have been a

very large bright light in the sky.

The club claim various, mysterious craft have been sighted in the area. One UFO had a strange white ball underneath according to Mr Blythe and has been sighted many times locally.

If you are interested in joining the UFO club, contact Walter Blythe on (Mansfield) 651703.

The club meet on the first Monday of every month at Mansfield Library from 7pm to 9.30pm.

It's probably not that surprising but the UFO sites are some of the most popular on the Net. *Flying Saucer Review*, a magazine first published in 1955, is now on-line (www.ccc.hw.ac.uk:80/~ceewb/fsr/fsrhome.htm) and already in the top 5 per cent of most visited sites. TUFOP – The Ultimate UFO Page – (www.serve.com/tufop/) has been on-line longer and is one of the most popular sites on the Net (I was visitor 928,142). The CUFON Files (www.tcet.unt.edu/~christ/cufon-pg.htm) has dozens of declassified documents going back over 50 years.

Flying Saucer Review, which claims Prince Philip among its subscribers, is produced in England, with help from 70 experts worldwide. It has a splendid collection of more than 100 UFO-related pictures on the Net. What is most remarkable about these snaps is the similarity, whether they were taken Tianjin

THE NET

Richard Belfield takes a trip to the heavens to find out about the latest developments in the bizarre world of ufology

in north China in 1942 or in Argentina in 1977. The cynic would say that's because they are all fakes, copied from the same fantasy. That's possible – and the TUFOP pages have an interesting psychological profile of UFO sighters, which could explain some of this. "But what about the cover-up?" the ufologists reply. And this is where the Net is at its best.

Some of the UFO sites not only offer good quality pictures (which can be downloaded quickly) but also plenty of declassified documents from the CIA, the FBI, the National Security Agency

and other American government departments. CUFON – that's the Computer UFO Network – has declassified documents from the 1950s onwards. There is some rich and fascinating material here, though some of the early papers make you want to reach for the dustpan and brush to sweep away the dust of cold war paranoia. But the more recent material suggests that the world's governments take UFOs seriously, even if most of the rest of us don't.

The problem is that you don't have to scratch very deeply before you are into crop circles and crazy talk. As Gordon Creighton, the editor of *Flying Saucer Review*, warns: "These sons of Belial are unfortunately still very much with us and aiming for a big and conclusive triumph soon."

And I don't think he's talking about John Redwood and the Vulcans.

WOLVERHAMPTON EXPRESS & STAR

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UFO alert as hot-air balloon skims roofs

A UFO alert was sparked when a hot-air balloon was blown off course and landed in Cradley.

Residents jammed the police switchboard after the mysterious night arrival skimmed rooftops in Abbey Road and came down in nearby fields just after 9.30 last night.

But the UFO turned out to be a harmless balloon carrying 12 people including a couple from Perton, near Wolverhampton.

Fire crews and police were put on stand-by at the scene.

The balloon had earlier taken off from Weston-under-Lizard, near Shifnal, and was heading for Cannock when it was

blown off course.

Peter Ball and wife Linda, from Perton, had bought the high-flying trip for each other as a birthday present.

"The police had about 30 phone calls from people who thought a UFO had landed and others thought we had crashed," he said.

"The pilot tried to bring it down in an area near the Merry Hill shopping centre but couldn't and we skimmed over some trees. This was the next spot and we decided to land because it was getting dark."

Pilot Tony Derbyshire, from Stretton-based UK Balloons, said there was no danger at any time.

THE STAR (SHEFFIELD)

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Star struck

ONE person not at all surprised at the discovery of possible primitive lifeforms on ancient Mars is Hollywood actor Charlie Sheen who claims he once spotted a UFO. The 30-year-old had his close encounter with the unknown as an 11-year-old boy in Malibu, California. He says, "I witnessed an aircraft doing things acrobatically in the sky that I really don't believe are possible for anything we've made."

The experience that made me a believer

RETired businessman Gordon Chamberlain became a believer after seeing a UFO for himself just two months ago.

While driving along the M5 with his wife from an army reunion they saw a brightly lit cylindrical craft which flew over Taunton and hovered above Kingston St Mary.

It was still in the air when he arrived home and he was able to watch it for 15 minutes before it sped away with enormous acceleration, unlike anything he had ever seen before.

"Before I saw this thing I would have laughed at anyone who said they had seen a UFO," he says. "But I know what I saw. It was definitely not a

star or an aircraft, it was some other sort of craft."

There have been 50 sightings in Somerset alone in the last couple of years.

They often fly along the invisible ley lines and hover near the sacred sites like Stonehenge.

Conveniently, this fits the theory that the mysterious stone and crop circles which stud the area were and are messages offered up into the skies to the gods — or alien visitors.

Hereford-based UFO investigator Ray Moore saw a silver globe-shaped light above Backbury Hill, the site of an Iron Age fort, in late 1994.

Separately, three other watchers reported the same thing.

"Backbury Hill is a junction of ley lines, which could make it a focal point for paranormal activity," he says.

The Hartcliffe Big One intrigued thousands of Bristolians when it appeared day after day in June, 1993.

It was indisputably proven to be the planet Venus, shining particularly brightly for all kinds of meteorological reasons.

Some can be explained away. But many, seen by down-to-earth men and women and trained professional pilots, policemen and servicemen, cannot.

They insist that UFOs do exist.

Did you see UFO?

'It was like a halo with red and yellow lights...'

by Mike Baess

A UFO studies group is asking Yellow Advertiser readers to help in its investigation of a strange flying object that appeared over the east London and Essex sky last week.

The brightly lit, metallic circular object was seen to pass over Thurrock, Havering, Redbridge and Waltham Forest before disappearing very quickly from view.

One reader who saw the object which appeared in the early hours of last Thursday morning, was Mrs Sylvia Thompson on Billet Road, Walthamstow.

Bright lights

"I was in bed but couldn't sleep and was drawn by bright lights in the sky," said Mrs Thompson.

"It was like a halo with red and yellow lights flashing out of it and was very beautiful."

"It didn't make an aircraft sound, more like a whirring sound. It moved about 200 feet above the houses for less than a minute and then was gone."

"I don't think it was a blimp [airship] or weather balloon because it moved off so quickly."

Colin Elstob, of the Thameside UFO Study Group, who is investigating the sighting, said he was eager to hear from any YA readers who might have seen the object.

"We have a theory that it might have been an



Sylvia Thompson with a sketch of the UFO she saw.

advertising balloon but need to get more descriptions first to be sure.

Anyone who can help can write to Thameside UFO Study Group, 37 Hume Close, Tilbury, Essex, RM18 8DN, or ring 01375 856089.

CATHERINE JONES

THANKS to *The X Files*, an obsession with extra-terrestrial craft and crop circles has become acceptable.

While agents Scully and Mulder continue to attract thousands of television viewers worldwide, Kerry and Tom Blower are doing their bit to put Wales on the paranormal map.

The couple have organised this weekend's Supernormal Research Conference in Cardiff where 300 people will discuss the possibility of alien beings and other unidentified objects.

For the first time, a handful of Welsh guests will stand up on stage and reveal their alien encounters.

A woman called Teresa from Abercynon will talk about her encounters with aliens, a holiday cottage owner from West Wales called Adam Whaley will talk about a life-time of synchronicities (bizarre coincidences)

University expert is not convinced

ABOUT 50 per cent of the population believes in the paranormal according to parapsychologist Susan Blackmore.

Dr Blackmore said, "There's always been a great interest in the paranormal and I do think *The X Files* has had an effect."

"Some sceptical people think this is dreadful because it encourages us

and a photographer will describe the effect on his family of a weird motor-way sighting.

It is the third conference Kerry, 33, a former club singer, has organised.

"This is the first time we have had people on stage telling their stories and they are very nervous about doing it."

Kerry became a believer in 1990 when she, and most of her family, saw a "motionless gold globe" in the

sky above Abergavenny. "These days, ridicule is old-fashioned," said Kerry, who lives in Croesceiliog, near Cwmbran.

It is the third conference Kerry, 33, a former club singer, has organised. "This is the first time we have had people on stage telling their stories and they are very nervous about doing it."

Kerry became a believer in 1990 when she, and most of her family, saw a "motionless gold globe" in the

attended every event. "I have nicknamed him Deepthroat," said Kerry, "after the character in *The X Files*.

"It will be a mind-expanding, thought-provoking time where people know they will not have the mickey taken."

"There's some remarkable stuff out there from researchers, physicists and ex-MOD people."

"After my sighting, I desperately wanted to know what it was so I started going to UFO conferences up and down the country."

"Then I thought there's never anything in Wales. Why not put on a conference?"

"I was bowled away by the interest in 1993. I wasn't going to put another one on but then in January the telephones started going asking, 'When's the next one?'"

Kerry travels to conferences throughout Britain with her husband, Tom, 44, a gardener. They have a 10-year-old daughter called Shelley.

Kidnap by aliens 'all in the mind'

Anyone who believes they have been kidnapped by aliens has simply had a bad dream, an expert has said.

Some people claim they have travelled through space or have had a sexual encounter with an extra-terrestrial. But their experiences are nothing more than a vivid dream caused by tiredness, stress or excitement, according to a leading researcher into the paranormal.

Delegates at the British Association Annual Festival of Science in Birmingham will be told by Dr Susan Blackmore next month that alien abductions are just figments of the imagination.

Dr Blackmore, of the University of the West of England in Bristol, says "sleep paralysis" is the most likely explanation.

They may hear whining or roaring noises, see flashing lights and stars and experience shaking, juddering or believe they have been turned in bed.

WOLVERHAMPTON

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EXPRESS & STAR

Aliens from outer space?

□ IT HAS been reported that huge and complex crop circles have appeared in a field near Martock.

A local dignitary has described them as staggeringly beautiful, while the farmer in whose field they appear suggests that this is the furthest west such crop circles have been seen.

What are we to make of it all?

Are we in Somerset now to be the target of aliens from outer space? Should we take up our pitchforks and guard every ear of ripening corn?

The signs are that this is going to be a sadder season than most.

CARDIFF WESTERN MAIL

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CHARD & ILMINSTER NEWS

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The truth is out there

Carole Ann Rice meets the man behind the real-life X-Files.

he real-life Fox Mulder adjusts his glasses. His perceptions are different now. The world view he had now extends to the beyond and, it's what he shares this with us here; we have been by aliens for thousands of years, most probably are living on Earth or that later, dressed in cavies. Nick Pope smart but casually attired in a t-shirt and trousers, a far cry from the establishment suit he wears in role as a civil servant working in the Ministry of Defence. He is a Higher Executive Officer, the ranking equivalent of a major in the Army.

He speaks clearly and intelligently and is pleasant and all normal. There is no air of mystery, no rolling-eyed, T-balance urgency that is the product of the fanatic or狂信者. This is a nice earnest man who has had his world completely blasted by UFOs.

I used to be a serious-minded career civil servant and now I've had to completely re-think my view of the world. Life was comfortable and now it's intense, interesting and bizarre. I've become more receptive to new-age ideas. I seem to have become known as the real Fox Mulder (from the TV series *The X-Files*). Colleagues call me Nick Spooky Pope," he says incredulously.

This mild-mannered chap hasn't just raised dust in the corridors of power, he's created an awesome tornado and it's only just begun. "The way we've been trained is to expect that

extra-terrestrials are benign like in *ET* or *Close Encounters*, but something bizarre is going on that could be hostile. Our air defences are being breached, so common sense dictates there's a potential threat," he says calmly.

He has worked at the Ministry of Defence's London HQ for 11 years where he has held a number of very different postings, from preparing briefing material for Defence Ministers, to being involved in work on the Gulf War and Bosnia.

But Nick Pope's journey into the unknown began in 1991 when he was appointed to Secretariat (Air Staff) Department 2A — better known to insiders as "The UFO Desk". His job was to investigate and analyse claims of UFO sightings and to assess their threat to national security.

"When I first took up my post I knew very little about UFOs. Then as I researched the subject, as I read the real X-Files and talked to trained observers, pilots, radar operators, the people in the street, I realised this was real. This was happening. The collective evidence was too overwhelming for any other explanation," he says frankly.

In his ground-breaking book *Open Skies*, *Closed Minds* the maverick civil servant provides a detailed over-view of the UFO phenomenon and reveals for the first time how the MoD tries to get to grips with the issue. It also makes for a rattling good read for you feel Nick has gone out on a limb to bring this

information to the public's attention and, speaking with courage and honesty, he tells the facts as he finds them — the cover-ups, the ignorance and the disdain shown by authority and the unnerving details of unauthenticated sightings.

His mission to expose the truth has in itself dictated that Nick Pope can no longer slide into the safety of anonymity. Whether he likes it or not he has now inadvertently set himself up as the messenger of vindication that many had been waiting for, and simultaneously falls into the murky mire of cynicism which files him under the unglamorous heading of "yet another crank".

Yes, colleagues now cut their eyes at him when they used to say hello and interviewers play the sarcasm card whenever possible — but brainwashed or moonstruck he isn't.

"A lot of people hear the phrase UFO and a whole lot of prejudices come out irrespective of the facts. I admit now I was wrong to think the whole subject was a silly tabloid mystery and that they were of no defence significance when I started out. I was a sceptic," he concedes.

Nick says he has only touched the tip of the iceberg in his astonishing book, as about 99 out of 100 people never report sightings for fear of ridicule or they quite simply do not know who to phone.

"When I did the job I was more user-friendly and accountable than most," he

explains. This comes across in the book.

Pope listens to the accounts from civilians to military personnel and respectfully considers their experiences. He adds no personal slant, is unswayed by conspiracy theories, prophecies or the occult and remains neutral, telling the facts as the witnesses perceive them.

He is, however, convinced that we have been "visited" throughout recorded time and recounts from the *Book of the Prophet Ezekiel* who saw visions of God and the heavens were opened".

Rather like a prophet of doom, Nick Pope sees it as his business to spread the word. "My aim is to blow the lid off the major issue. Some people are scared of the truth as it means they have to reassess their world view," says the cosmic crusader.

The civil servant is still working as an MoD official, but is also researching a few disturbing private cases of sightings and abductions; he is writing his second book and is demand on the conventions and laws of circuit.

His mind has been prised open by his four years on the UFO desk, his life has changed beyond recognition, but his biggest challenge is still ahead — to tell the world what is really out there and what is happening when outer space gets here.

Closer to home, however, in the catacombs of Whitehall, there is an office with Secretariat (Air Staff) Department 2A on the door, where a phone continues to ring out along the corridors of power.

■ *Open Skies*, *Closed Minds* is published by Simon and Schuster and is priced at £14.99.

CLOSE the X-Files and cancel that trip to see Independence Day. Those UFO sightings may all be a simple explanation after all: a secret, triangular-shaped aircraft that can fly at more than twice the speed of Concorde. The plane — which resembles a flying mantis — is the California and as far afield as Belgium. Last year a British produced joint research by Airways Boeing 737 flying from Milan to Manchester was

secret full-size version may already have been built and be responsible for countless UFO sightings. Since 1990 there have been unexplained reports of flat, wedge-shaped objects seen by full-grown versions of the Loflyte (now observable flight test experiment) plane could reach speeds of more than 3,000 mph and cut the journey from New York to London to an hour. The design is known to be generated by the high speed

Pennines. It was so fast that the air crew ducted as it passed within feet of their aircraft, but radar operators on the ground were unable to track it. Aviation experts believe a ploughing through it. Air bounces off a conventionally designed aircraft such as the Harrier jet, capable of 700mph, instruction from a pilot. John Pike, director of space policy at the Washington-based Federation of American Scientists, said a full-sized version could

"wave rider" because it surfs around the fuselage while trapping a cushion of air below it. It is so fast that computer software is needed to teach the aircraft to fly itself after basic instruction from a pilot. John Pike, director of space policy at the Washington-based Federation of American Scientists, said a full-sized version could be flying. "The public showing classified work going on," said Graham Birdsell, editor of UFO magazine, which first proposed the wave rider concept was about life on Mars. The Loflyte could also explain the epidemic of UFO sightings since 1990. In Belgium there have been up to 2,000 sightings in a single year. Two F-16 aircraft from the Belgian air force were sent to intercept one craft, the result

of the Loflyte vehicle is very odd. It leads me to the conclusion that there may well be

After days of speculation it is so fast that the public could also explain the epidemic of UFO sightings since 1990. In Belgium there have been up to 2,000 sightings in a single year. Two F-16 aircraft from the Belgian air force were sent to intercept one craft, the result

that the R.A.F. is the only overseas air force allowed to fly the Stealth bomber."

The wave rider concept was first proposed by a British

engineer, Terence Nonneller, in the early 1950s, but the only full-scale aircraft known to have used the design was an experimental bomber flown in the late 1960s in America, but

would find it extraordinary that it would be flying in British air-

STAR FILE

hearts advertisement. Fox Mulder meets Dana Scully. What do you like most about yourself? That I'm not afraid to ask difficult questions. What makes you cringe about yourself? I get stressed easily. What record are you most embarrassed to admit owning? Each has its own special memory. Would you ever have cosmetic surgery? No. Describe yourself for a lonely

possession? A small orange and white bunny rabbit that I've had for as long as I can remember.

What was the best meal you've ever had? A celebration meal at Daphne's with Champagne to celebrate the launch of my book.

What clothes do you wear around the house? Jeans and T-shirt.

Which laws do you break? Note that I'd admit to

Who would you least like to be stuck in a lift with? Saddam Hussein.

What is on your bedside table? Alarm clock, glass of water and a dream interpretation book.

Have you any unfilled ambitions? To walk on the moon to see a UFO and to make contact with extra-terrestrial life.

Do you consider yourself politically correct? Yes.

Do you ever wish you'd been born the opposite sex? No.

Where will you go after you die? Somewhere better and very different from here.

by Richard Morris
Media Correspondent

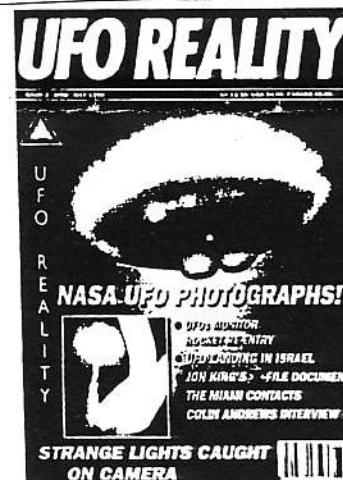
as government officials and armed forces personnel, both in the UK and America where the magazine will also hit the newsstands. It will be published bi-monthly with a £2.50 cover price.

Meanwhile Mark Smith, editor of the £2.95 monthly rival *Sightings*, says his magazine will take an 'objective and sceptical' look at UFOs.

'We will have one reporter whose brief is to scour the country speaking to people who have claimed to have seen UFOs and then write balanced stories.'

Contributors are strongly advised to study the format and style of the magazines before submitting any ideas, which are accepted in writing only.

Contact: Mark Smith, *Sightings*, 14a Union Street,



Newton Abbot, Devon TQ12 2JS. Tel: 01626 68611. Fax: 01626 51484.

Contact: Jon King, *UFO Reality*, Box 1998, Glastonbury, Somerset BA6 8YB. Tel: 01458 834112.

Is it a bird? Is it a UFO? No, it's a waverider...

by Maurice Chittenden

CLOSE the X-Files and cancel that trip to see Independence Day. Those UFO sightings may all be a simple explanation after all: a secret, triangular-shaped aircraft that can fly at more than twice the speed of Concorde. The plane — which resembles a flying mantis — is the California and as far afield as

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reach speeds of more than 3,000 mph and cut the journey from New York to London to an hour. The design is known to be generated by the high speed

"wave rider" because it surfs around the fuselage while trapping a cushion of air below it. It is so fast that the public could also explain the epidemic of UFO sightings since 1990. In Belgium there have been up to 2,000 sightings in a single year. Two F-16 aircraft from the Belgian air force were sent to intercept one craft, the result

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WRITERS NEWS

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Do aliens really exist? Just read this dossier

TERMINATORS ON YOUR DOORSTEP



SOAMES: Watching
Minister
smashes
saucers!

THE countdown has started. On August 9 epic sci-fi film Independence Day opens across Britain. It is set to become the biggest blockbuster of all time—dwarfing Jurassic Park, ET and Mission Impossible. In America, people have queued all night to get in to see it. The film has also spawned a huge new wave of interest in UFO and extra-terrestrial sightings. We asked you what experiences you'd had. Your response was out of this world...

By JAN JACQUES

A BLAST of searing heat "from nowhere" has left Laraine Davis in no doubt aliens exist.

Her experience came as she opened her back door on an icy night to retrieve washing from her line.

Laraine says: "It was like opening an oven door when your face is too close to it. It was eerie and silent as well. The hair rose on the back of my neck."

Days later Laraine, 50, from Poole, Dorset, heard the contents of her neighbour's greenhouse had been found incinerated—yet the structure itself was untouched.

She says: "The heat was so fierce it destroyed tools. Only two lumps of molten plastic—once a garden table—had survived. I borrowed a barrow—but there had been nothing in there at all."

"The glass was not cracked and shrubs alongside were untouched."

"Even a small fire would have lit up the area and been visible to us all. But no one saw anything."

"I now have no doubt that 'they' are here."

The memory of his close encounter with an alien still makes Wayne Bryant shudder.

It came as he and pals Mark and Rick lazed in a wood in Chertsey, Surrey.

Wayne, 31, recalls: "We heard a strange sound. It took us a few seconds to realise it was grass being flattened by some kind of downward wind."

"We looked up and saw a figure about six feet tall with red hair, bronze skin and huge eyes."

"It was in a long white gown—we don't remember seeing any feet—and in its hand held a rod."

"There was smoke coming from the rod. We sat gawping for about 20 seconds then scarpered."

Horrible

Illustrator Wayne, who was ten at the time, went on: "We raced home to tell our parents."

"They came out and were amazed to see a patch of flattened grass exactly where we said it could be. Where we said it could be."

"There were no footprints—just as if that horrific figure had come out of thin air."

"Kids have vivid imaginations—but nothing on earth could have prompted us to dream it up."

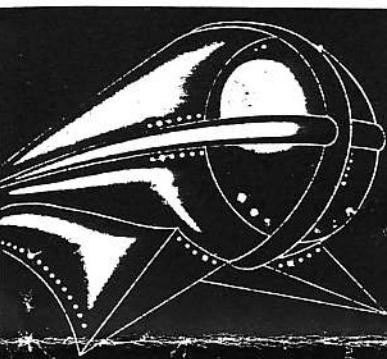
"That's why we have no doubt there IS something out there."

Louise Milatovic believes she was part of another world's experiment.

She was a young girl travelling in a convoy of family and friends on holi-



EERIE: Laraine Davis, left, and above, UFO on John's hot pic



SILENT STALKER: Sketch of Stewart's 'helicopter'

TORY Defence Minister Nicholas Soames has scoffed at the idea of little green men.

And he insists flying saucers are no threat to Britain. But the Government is watching—just in case.

Mr Soames told MPs that no UFO had ever been investigated, despite the fact that a Government unit logs 300 sightings a year.

"There is no evidence to indicate that UK air defence may have been compromised," he said.

SCUNTHORPE EVENING TELEGRAPH

01 JUL 96

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Strange phenomena

UFO'S, strange phenomena, mysterious beings, ghosts and spirits are just a few of the world's great mysteries that are examined in Flagtower's latest and most thrilling CDROM title — The Unexplained.

This interactive encyclopaedia of the weird takes the user on an exploration of things beyond the explanation of modern science, from strange coincidences and falling fish, through aliens, abductions, and Bigfoot to crop circles, levitation and poltergeists.

Via film and video footage coupled with animation and 3D graphics, original photographs and rare evidence of sightings and experiences, the program reveals the real facts and stories behind TV shows such as The X-Files and The Twilight Zone. With three hours of audio visual commentary and over 900 screens of text and still pictures, there's a lot of information to look through.

Every aspect of the content has been meticulously researched by some of the foremost experts in the field, there are hundreds of stories that will amaze and alarm which are split into six distinct chapters of study.

Theories and explanations are put forward in a balanced way and hoaxes are presented and discussed thus allowing the user to make up their own mind about their reality. An opinion section contains interviews with some of the world's leading believers and sceptics including the president of the British UFO Research Association and Dr Susan Blackmore, the UK's foremost sceptic.

The program will be available ~~anytime~~ any time now and details at £29.99, for more information check out Flagtower's web site at <http://www.flagtower.com>.

THE IRISH TIMES (DUBLIN)

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UFO 'sighted' on Lithuanian road

MOSCOW — A sighting of an unidentified flying object was reported by two Lithuanian policemen near their capital, Vilnius, putting the city's entire force on alert.

The Vilnius police chief, Mr Valentinas Loukhanavicius, said the two policemen who had reported the sighting were of sound and honest mind. — (AFP)

WIN **TICKETS TO SEE SCI-FI MOVIE OF THE YEAR**

CELEBRATE Independence Day with the *Newspaper of the World*. We've got a pair of tickets to the movie's star-studded premiere at London's Odeon Leicester Square on August 6. The rest of Britain won't see this tale of alien invasion until August 9. After the film, our winner and a partner will be treated to a delicious meal at Planet Hollywood and spend the night at a West End hotel. To be in with a chance, tell us the date of American Independence Day. Send your answer, name, address and daytime phone number, on postcard only, to Independence Day Contest, PO Box 6382, London SE7 7ZG by Friday July 26. First correct entry out of our postbag on July 26 will win.

PLANET HOLLYWOOD



ATTACK: Independence Day

day when all three cars cut out at the same time.

They watched in horrified fascination as a blinding white light descended from the sky. Writer Louise, 43, from Ormesby St Michael, Norfolk, said: "The white globe changed shape and looked like a rocket on its side."

"From behind it came a light show that every firework or laser display I have seen since could never compare with."

A week later Louise began having nightmares.

She says: "One night I woke to find a blister on my leg. Mum popped it and nearly fainted—I had a perfect hole nearly right through my leg. It took three years to heal and in

the process turned into a black and green band around my leg. I'm pretty down to earth. If I can be convinced aliens exist, anyone can."

Fish merchant Stewart Bradley thought he was being followed by a helicopter as he made a delivery in the early hours—until he realised it was silent.

Stewart, 29, was driving on a remote road near Cranleigh, Surrey, in November 1991 when the craft appeared in his driving mirror.

He continued for a mile with it hovering behind. Stewart said: "I couldn't understand why a helicopter was following me. I pulled over, turned the radio down and stuck my

head out of the window. It was then I realised it was making no noise. It was quite eerie. I put my foot down and got out of there."

A friend of Stewart's confirmed that he and his son had seen the same thing a week later.

John Rosser's blood ran cold when he picked up his holiday snaps—and saw he had captured a strange saucer-shaped flying object on one of them.

John, from South London, took the pic in Abbotbury, Dorset, in summer 1994. He says: "It is not a plane or a helicopter. So what on earth is it?"

Something like this makes you question if there are other life forms out there."

Quest provides solid tactics to support fantastic tales

JOHN DODD is a former police officer at 25 years standing. He is Director of Research for Quest, national, an organisation which has an interest began when he was out in the Yorkshire Dales in 1983 and saw what appeared to be a strange object.

It was 2.30am and we were heading an incident. Coming round a bend in the road, we saw the strangest object I have ever seen in my life. Our mouths were open looking at it. No noise was coming from it and the ice radio developed a high pitched sound. There was a dome on top, a coloured flashing light and red spheres on the underside and...

eventually it came down in the forest. No-one had anything on radar but it was lower than the hillside."

After that first encounter Tony witnessed many more UFO sightings.

With the intensity of a policeman he has since been collecting every available scrap of evidence.

He showed the conference audience slides of animal mutilations, which he and many others are convinced have been carried out by aliens for their own research purposes.

Mutilations have been reported from countries throughout the world, including Britain.

"The internal organs are removed from the body by holes about a centimetre in diameter. No one ever

saw the perpetrator of them. They are killed in a very particular way by some form of sterilisation by a high heat. Every case is totally bloodless. There is no blood left in the body."

Cows, sheep, goats, horses, deer, badgers, foxes and mice have all reportedly been found bearing these hallmark marks.

A farmer living in the east of Britain set up all night in one field, after the death of 40 sheep.

"He set up security cameras and these were triggered. The farmer found a sheep mutilated yet he had seen nothing or heard nothing."

"His watch stopped at 3am and has never gone since," said Tony.

“MANY people are convinced they have been abducted by aliens and then returned to earth after having medical experiments carried out on them. Tony has hypnotically regressed people who believe they have been victimised."

"Abduction always takes place on a child. It starts at four or five and continues through certain periods of their life. An implant is put in their body, a tracking device so that they can't re-abduct. They are assimilating the child for when they get older," he said.

Tony has recently been contacted by a distraught family who claim their 11-year-old son is repeatedly targeted.

"He adamantly refused to sleep in his bedroom. He told his parents he was taken by the little men at night and

taken away in a craft."

"The dogs went crazy. Son and dad went to check on the young boy, and found him missing. All the windows and doors were locked and they found the boy curled up and asleep in the shed."

According to the family, this has continued to happen and the boy, who once was a perfectly happy and normal child, was expelled from school because of his disruptive behaviour. His dad said his parents he is taken to a cold dark room with a bright light shining above him and the little men used instruments on his arms, legs and stomach, causing pain. He says he now knows when they are coming because he has a strange feeling in his head."

elegates were awestruck by extraterrestrial tales at a major UFO conference in the city

Aliens have landed in the Potteries

BY JACKIE WHITTAKER

week later a farmer and his wife were alerted by their barking dogs.

"They went outside and saw a submarine — five metres above the ground. It was cigar shaped. It was completely silent and gave off misty smoke and headed off into the woodland," said Graham, editor of UFO magazine, who has the names of witnesses.

Creature

"The scene then shifts to a suburb on the same morning. People report seeing a strange creature in woodland and call the fire department."

According to researchers, the alien was captured with nets and put into a truck. Witnesses made drawings showing the alien with slits, blood-red burning eyes, two toes and several bumps on

the head. At 3pm the same day, three girls reported seeing a naked creature with three raised humps on his head and strange veins and arteries. He appeared to have been injured and was crouched in fear. The girls have since spoken to a psychotherapist who said he would tear up his diploma if it was discovered they weren't telling the truth.

"In April this year their mum was contacted by four men in Armani suits who offered her lots of money to get her daughter to say on camera that they had made the whole thing up. She refused," said Graham.

To date, 65 first-hand witnesses to the capture of the aliens have come forward. It is said the first alien was taken to the Sergeant's School and the second creature to a hospital before being transferred to Hospital Humanitas. It is also claimed the events were recorded on a video now in the hands of the authorities.

THE UFO conference was the brainchild of music teacher Tracie Austin, of Newcastle, who spent months of her spare time to organise it.

"Following this conference, the first in the area for 30 years, we have had requests that we organise one which spans the whole weekend. We could have sold 250 more tickets, the interest has been phenomenal. The conference was recorded and videos will be available shortly," she said.

For more information Tracie can be contacted on 01782 715267.

UFOs are a serious business

UFOLOGISTS (investigators) carry out serious research into sightings of unidentified flying objects. Not all are extra-terrestrial; they could be military aircraft.

At the conference, Graham Birdsall produced slides of documents purporting to show high offices such as The White House, the CIA and the British Government were regularly receiving information about UFOs.

"It is a worldwide phenomenon and a serious one and attracts serious research from every Western defence agency. We have a phenomenon which doesn't recognise international boundaries," he said.

The Joint Airmiss Working Group of the Civil Aviation Authority recently investigated an incident which took place in January 1995 as a plane came into Manchester Airport....

Captain Roger Wills and First Officer Mark Stuart reported encountering a triangular shaped UFO while descending to land. The lighted object flew down the right hand side of the aircraft at high speed from the opposite direction. The Joint Airmiss Working Group discounted possibilities that it could have been a hang glider, paraglider or microlight.

Graham said: "Over 3,500 pilots have submitted pilot encounters with UFOs and only 10 per cent of people who report an encounter bother to report it officially."

Regarding a different case, he showed a letter on headed notepaper from the London Air Traffic Control Centre (Military) addressed to a ufologist. It read: "You will appreciate that during a day there are many aircraft observed on radar which we know nothing about..."

• Worlds apart? Conference organiser Tracie Austin with a bust of an alien



by Simon Ritchie

A FORMER Lord Mayor of York today revealed for the first time details of a close encounter with a UFO.

David Wilde, a City of York councillor, has kept quiet about his sighting for more than 10 years.

He decided to go public after reading numerous UFO reports in the Y-Files series of articles in The Yorkshire Evening Press.

"I was sitting in the front seat on the top floor of a double decker bus going from the university into the city centre on University Road. I may have been going to a council meeting — I can't really remember. What I do know is that I was not drinking," said Coun Wilde, who was Lord Mayor last year.

"I looked up and saw this object shaped like a 'conventional' flying saucer. It was silvery in colour and motionless. It



David Wilde: encounter of the paranormal kind

had some sort of port hole or window.

"It would have been hovering over Low Moor just below The Retreat. It was the size of a helicopter. It did a little dip to the left at an acute angle and then

disappeared as quick as lightning."

Unfortunately there was no-one else on the bus at the time of Coun Wilde's sighting.

And he cannot remember exactly when it occurred.

"I know it was a Friday and I believe it was in the early Eighties. What was really strange was in the Evening Press the following Monday there was a report of a flying saucer spotted on the outskirts of York, Haxby I think, on the Saturday. It seemed to very similar to what I had seen. The coincidence was quite startling."

"I never ever believed in flying saucers. I'm not one of those people who goes out looking for them with binoculars. All I know is that I saw something odd."

• Have YOU had a close encounter with a UFO or a brush with the paranormal? Contact Simon Ritchie at the Evening Press on 01904 653051 ext 347.

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Farmers pour scorn on corn circle aliens

'If they've visited the people of Hedon they haven't changed them much!'

IS this the first sign of alien landing on Hedon or just elaborate hoaxes copying corn circles?

Puzzled farmers and villagers have been marvelling at the sudden appearance of three corn circles at Hedon.

At Magdalen Hill, Hedon, the latest freak formation to appear.

The symmetrical marking in a 13-acre crop of winter wheat has been made in a clockwise direction and is the most elaborate yet. At neighbour-

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By Richard Dean
NEWS REPORTER

ing Park Farm in Burstwick a 50ft circle was left on June 19.

Farmer Mr Jeremy Saunt of Magdalen Farm said he just laughed when he saw it had appeared overnight.

"If UFOs have paid a visit to the people of Hedon then they have not changed them much!" said Mr Saunt. "I would like to see these little green men from Mars."

A spokesman for the East Riding Highways depot immediately next to the circle at Magdalen Hill admitted he had sensed something strange.



CLOSE ENCOUNTER? The circle that's mysteriously appeared in the field at Magdalen Farm, Hedon.

Picture: SEAN SPENCER

"We have been having difficulties with our computer network, but we believed it was technology problem." "If aliens are going to use it regularly then they will need permission."

In 1995 the Yorkshire and Humber-side Branch of the Centre for Crop Circle Studies said it had fairly conclusive proof the circles on farmer Peter Lounts land at Leconfield were made by "something other than human beings."

Whirlwinds are known to cause similar crop damage.

Mrs Linda Richardson of Park Farm, Burstwick, said she was keeping an open mind on what caused her circle.

"At first I thought some one did it as a joke," said Mrs Richardson.

However, the placing of a dead crow to keep birds off the crop soon back fired when an alarmed member of the public reported it to the police.

"The police called us because they were investigating claims about a satanic ritual down there," said Mrs Richardson.

"They said it was only routine. We have laughed about that though."

The first circle to appear was at Welwick where farmer Mr Paul Clapison was unimpressed.

"I'm pretty certain I know who it is," he said. "This has been done by people who should know better."



FARMER Stuart Saunt

A COUPLE claim to have had a close encounter with an alien craft while on a camping holiday.

The Lawrie family spotted the strange sight from a campsite near Callander in the early hours of Saturday morning.

Karen black belt John Norval said: "I used to be a sceptic, but I'm a believer now. There's no doubt in my mind about what I saw."

John (45), 6 Suliven Heights, and girlfriend Wendy Forbes, 43 James Street, returned to the campsite, at about 1.55 a.m., when they saw a weird object hanging in the air, over Loch Lubnaig.

John said: "It was just like a traditional flying saucer — like a child's top, but flatter and covered in bright flashing lights."

He said: "I don't drink, and I don't take drugs. I'm a fitness fanatic."

The couple watched the object hovering near Ben Ledi, through binoculars for around 20 minutes. It was covered with red, white and blue flashing lights, which appeared to be spinning.

John said: "It was a nice night and the stars were out. I thought it was a star at first until I saw it through the binoculars. It definitely wasn't a helicopter, and that's the only thing that could hover that.

"It didn't move for ages, then all of a sudden it turned sharply to the left, travelling about half a mile in the blink of an eye.

"Then it shot up into the cloud. It came back down again on the same flight path, then it hovered again, and this time it went off to the left, to the right. Then it shot away and disappeared over the hill."

"We observed this for about 20 minutes."

John said the object was also seen by an English family staying at the campsite.

Wendy said this is not the first time she has seen a UFO. She also saw something she cannot explain over 20 years ago.

She said: "He never believed me — but he's convinced now."

John said: "I've been high as a kite since I saw it — I'm definitely a believer now."

UFO expert Malcolm Robinson said: "That's the first I've heard of a sighting in that neck of the woods, but other people might have seen the same thing, but been too scared to come forward."

By EILEEN SMITH

"I watched it for about 20 minutes and it was stationary all that time. I looked around for stars but there wasn't a single star in the sky."

By the next day Mr Lambert had forgotten all about it until his 15-year-old grandson visiting from Greece pointed to the story in the paper.

Camera

Now he is kicking himself that he did not go for his camera or awake other members of the family. He now sleeps with his camera and binoculars by his bedside... just in case.

"I look at this way. If we can get up there why shouldn't someone from up there come down here," he said.

Ashley Latham of Horwich reckons to have seen something similar last Friday night. Mr Latham and his wife got up to see to their baby at about 3am.

He says he looked out of the window and saw an object which appeared identical to Phil's reported sighting. It appeared to be hovering over the hills above Georges Lane, Horwich.

He is certain it was not a star or an aircraft. The couple watched it for about an hour.

"It seemed to fade for a while and then came back again very bright, he said.



• UFO researcher Phil Catterall

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UNHAPPY LANDINGS: Hit film, Independence Day, is a sensational account of an alien invasion

I'm sure UFOs are no flight of fancy

From Page 31

"despite the testimonies of a string of former employees and senior military officers — not to mention all of the above being faithfully recorded on film — the US government insists none of it even exists. Why the secrecy?"

It was then that the TV crew knew they had to discover what was being hidden in the laboratories below the desert. The stories they were told could have come out of the X-Files — the facility houses extraterrestrial spacecraft which are painstakingly researched, rebuilt and then flown.

Key evidence came from Bob Lazar, a former Area 51 engineer. With a chilling clarity, he explained how he was introduced to the centre as a jet propulsion expert and shown evidence of the extraterrestrial craft.

"One time we were standing by one of the hangar doors and there was the disc. The craft lifted off silently, drifted around a bit and sat back down. That was a marvellous sight — this huge thing — it's like seeing a house lift off the ground quietly. You can't imagine the energy involved to do that and not make any noise at all."

"The whole aim of the project was to take these craft and try to duplicate their systems and subsystems using earthly materials."

THE crew, who were making a documentary entitled Dreamland, also spoke to some less convincing witnesses, including a 70-year-old man who said he worked next to an alien technical adviser called Jarod for 15 years. Evidence such as this was dismissed.

But there were more credible sources. The former deputy director of the CIA, Admiral Bobby Ray Inman, admitted: "We are test-flying vehicles that defy description. We have things that are so far beyond the comprehension of the average aviation authority as to be really alien to our way of thinking."

Yet asked if he believed vehicles recovered from space would ever become available for technological research, he said: "Ten years ago the answer would have been 'no', but now, where the government is beginning to become more open

about it, there is a possibility." Captain Edgar Mitchell, who, as part of the Apollo 14 mission was the sixth man to land on the moon, is also adamant that alien technology is being investigated on earth. The highly respected physicist is convinced by Bob Lazar's gripping testimony.

Bruce Burgess is in a similar position. "If, two years ago, anyone had told me I would one day have a healthy belief in the existence of aliens, I would, quite frankly, have laughed out loud."

"Yet now I have no doubts. I've seen a thriving base that the US government denies. I've heard the testimonies of sane and plain-speaking scientists. I've spoken to witnesses."

"Now I know that, in our world, here and now, the US government is recreating extraordinary spacecraft. And that the technology used is derived entirely from the discovery of flying saucers which have crashed on this planet. Yes, I believe in aliens."

"The US government is trying to harness the energy source that allows these discs to defy gravity and fly at phenomenal speed. It has to be top secret as whoever eventually wins the global race to capture this energy source will have a powerful military and economic advantage."

The United States Air Force has earmarked £7 billion for research development for Area 51 in 1996/97 alone — yet despite the massive funding, officials in Wash-

ington still insist nothing even exists at Dreamland. This denial is enough to convince Bruce Burgess' cameraman, Sebastian Rich — ITN's former cameraman-at-large, reporter Martin Bell's favourite war-zone companion and the veteran of three decades of front-line reportage.

HE HAS seen a great deal and is not easily hoodwinked. "We all thought it was nonsense when the idea first came up," he admits. "I've heard of flying saucers and aliens but dismissed it naturally. To me, a believer in such things was always to be seen as barking mad."

"But I have become convinced that the US government has these discs. I believe Bob Lazar and I honestly believe he has been involved in recovering alien craft."

Such convictions are not limited to a TV crew which, one might suspect, has a financial interest in the bullish insistence that their work has proved the existence of aliens. Officers within the British Ministry of Defence, a former deputy director of the CIA, and the sixth man to walk on the moon are all believers.

Nick Pope, a senior MoD official, was promoted after his three-year tour of duty in the Ministry's UFO investigations centre. He is assured in his convictions of Area 51's relevance.

"Very few people are ever ready to accept the reality of alien contact, and rightly so," he says. "But I am in an informed position: for three years as a civil servant I looked into all of this and I am unsurprised by Bruce's findings."

"There is so much evidence already, and it is only reinforced by the blank denials of the US government. They are denying documents which I know are there; they protest too much."

Bolstered on all sides by their own research, Bruce and his team stand convinced of their facts.

But in the interests of truth, justice and the American Way, those who do actually know the answers about whether flying saucers exist are still not telling.

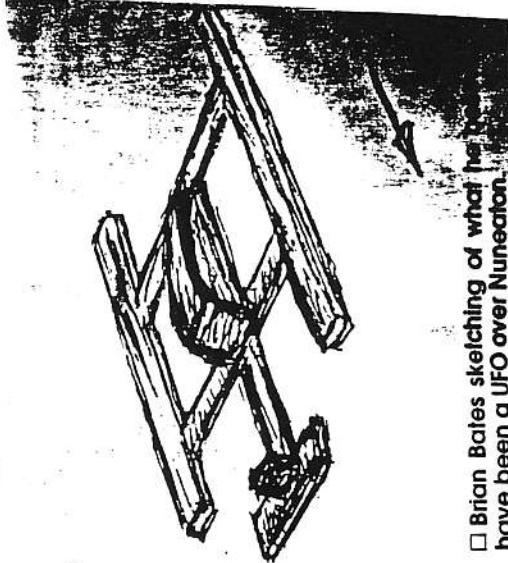
• Dreamland will be shown on Sky TV on September 24 and 25. Independence Day opens in Britain on August 9.



BELIEF: MoD official Nick Pope

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THE LATEST in a spate of local UFO sightings has left a Nuneaton motorist baffled and appealing for some logic behind his own close encounter.

By JOHN LINSTEAD

The past few months have seen a number of witnesses come forward, claiming to have seen strange lights or objects in the night sky.

But the claims being made by Brian Bates from Weddington Road, Nuneaton, are made even more disturbing as his sighting took place at 5pm in the afternoon, in broad daylight.

All of the other recent apparitions have been at night and easily explained away as planes, and the evening sky distorting images. But Mr Bates is adamant that he watched the craft for several seconds as it passed through the sky above Whitlestone, Nuneaton.

The sighting took place on Saturday afternoon as Mr Bates drove in his car towards Nuneaton town centre.

He said: "As I drove towards Nuneaton in a car myself when I saw the all black structure passing

"It seemed unreal and was moving in the opposite direction to what seemed normal, since the tail piece was at the front."

"Could it possibly have been a large model? Or was it really a UFO passing overhead in broad daylight?"

Earlier this year saw a number of UFOs spotted in the North Warwickshire area, and near Slaley Stanton.

Every witness is positive of what they saw, despite the ridicule they are opening themselves up to by coming forward.

Can you explain Mr Bates sighting? Or have you yourself witnessed any strange events? If so contact the Heartland Evening News on 01203 353534.

□ Brian Bates sketching of what he has seen over Nuneaton.

CLOSE ENCOUNTER FOR TV MAN AS HE FILMS AT TOP SECRET LOCATION

UFO show director in alien base drama

TELEVISION director Ian Barnes came under American secret service scrutiny when he filmed the outskirts of a base where the military is rumoured to analyse captured alien spacecraft.

Called Area 51, the base, which does not officially exist, is in the middle of the Nevada desert surrounded by a 10-mile exclusion zone and patrolled by guards operating a shoot-to-kill policy on intruders.

The Coventry-born 28-year-old was there to get footage for his nine-part series about the UFO phenomenon called Future Fantastic, which starts tonight at 7.30pm on BBC1.

Presented by Gillian Anderson, alias Agent Scully of the cult TV series The X Files, it examines whether life in other worlds is possible.

Ian, who went to Bablake School, and his crew had to use a camera lens "as long as your arm" to get shots of the base from a mountain 25 miles away.

He said: "No agency will admit to running the base, but the majority of people think it's the CIA."

"When we were by the perimeter signs we were being watched. The guards wear camouflage gear but no insignia."

The series also includes



SECRETIVE SITE: Ian Barnes near Area 51, the rumoured alien spacecraft base

By EDDY MURRAY

interviews with astronaut Story Musgrave, who always felt he was "being watched" while in space and an engineer who claims he examined one of nine alien spacecraft

kept at a secret US base.

The television producer also spoke to people in the nearby town of Rachel who claimed they were aliens.

"The whole area is a strange and eerie place. People say they look up at

night and see flying saucer-type craft coming from the base and moving at 7,000 mph."

Although Ian keeps an open mind about some of the things he was told, he believes there could be life on other planets.

"We are very conceited if we believe we are the only life form in the universe."

The series also looks at alleged alien abductions and "conspiracy theories" that governments know more about UFOs than they admit.

THERE'S LIFE OUT THERE...BUT NOT AS WE KNOW IT!

FOR years, anyone speaking out about mystery UFO sightings would have been dismissed as a crank, as often reported in *The People*, the world down witnesses including ex-servicemen. Their testimonies cannot be ignored. Read the People's amazing UFO files...the truth is out there...

DAVID JACK AND IAN BRANDES have tracked down witnesses including ex-servicemen. Their testimonies cannot be ignored. Read the People's amazing UFO files...the truth is out there...

"Man's progress has been maintained by beings whose technological and mental resources make ours look primitive and theirs supernatural," says Good. "But we are entitled to know some of the truth."

"Good's claims that a US jet, craft, the pilot screamed: 'They've

NOW TURN OVER IF YOU DARE...OUR SPECIAL REPORT IS SIMPLY OUT OF THIS WORLD!

SLEEPY MAUCHLINE villagers were abruptly woken last week when a mysterious aircraft shattered the silence in the early hours of the morning.

The as yet unidentified aircraft had some residents running for cover with fright after hearing loud "stuttering" noises and seeing flashing lights.

Jim Irwin, of 40 Welton Road, said his 13-year-old daughter came frantically running into his bedroom after hearing the noise. He said: "I didn't get out of my bed to see what it was, but I could hear it outside. It was just going over the house and I thought it was going to come in through the roof. Whatever it was it was very loud. It sounded like a great big plane and was awful loud."

Other people in the village heard the noise and thought something was about to drop out of the sky and into their homes.

Mother-of-two Anne Lindsay, of Mary Morrison Drive, said there has been talk in the village about the mysterious sighting. She told us: "I was terrified. I didn't actually see it but I heard it and whatever it was was really really close. In the house, I was too scared to get up and see it. We're used to planes going by in this area but this was different -- it was scary."

Anne said she thought the aircraft was about to land on her roof as it hovered above the houses.

And David Shunkland witnessed strange flashing lights in the misty morning sky. He told the Chronicle:

"It's a mystery to the whole of Mauchline. What we want to know is was it low flying, was it dangerous, was it a registered flight."

"We both jumped out of bed as we thought whatever it was had come down on top of the house. We could see lights flashing but couldn't identify what it was through the mist. But if it had been in the middle of the village it would have hit the kirk."

"I've seen low flying planes, Concorde and all sorts of things in my time but this was really roollop low. It was frightening and has shocked and upset a lot of people."

CUMNOCK CHRONICLE

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don discovered the sighting had been common knowledge among miners at Wearmouth Colliery.

We fast forward to New Year's Eve 1978 for the next sightings reported in the files.

Several witnesses had called in to describe "a ball of fire" over Sunderland at around 7pm.

Ann White, of Mill View Avenue, said the ball had resolved itself into a cylindrical object, with flames and a long white trail behind it.

Two months later, Ronald Sanderson, of Thornewy Close, reported a 3ft long object with red lights flying low over Thornewy Close Club.

A bumper crop of sightings emerged in August and September 1988, with UFOs spotted over Marsden Grotto, Sunderland and County Durham.

An anonymous taxi driver claimed her car had been followed by an 80ft-long object with red lights on top and bottom and a string of white lights around the rim as she drove past Marsden.

Sunderland pensioner Lily Bluett was in bed at her Nookside home when she was woken by a bright light.

Unexplained

"It was like a headlamp off a brand new car -- very bright -- and it was high up. It did not move for three minutes and made no sound. Then it just faded away," she said.

Civil servant Steve Parksby, sister Jill and friend Tara Patterson all reported a star-like object which buzzed their car as they drove from

Great Lumley to Shirey Row in the early hours.

But not everything spotted in the sky goes unexplained. Back in April, we reported a spate of sightings of mysterious lights in the night-time sky over Sunderland.

The Echo had been inundated with reports of swirling lights in the sky and eye-witness Susan Wingate, of Ashbrooke, reported: "There were lots of rays coming from a cloud, like they were searching for something."

Well, she got it half right. They were indeed searchlights, but pointed upwards, not down.

Sunderland's newest transport The Nitro Klub had just opened in Newcastle Road and bosses had hired a Skyracker system -- complete with two enormous searchlights -- to mark the occasion.

and could it happen again?

Mr Shunkland, of 38 Welton Road, said he and his wife were startled and jumped out of bed around 12.00am after hearing the horrendous noise.

"We both jumped out of bed as we thought whatever it was had come down on top of the house. We could see lights flashing but couldn't identify what it was through the mist. But if it had been in the middle of the village it would have hit the kirk."

"I've seen low flying planes, Concorde and all sorts of things in my time but this was really roollop low. It was frightening and has shocked and upset a lot of people."